

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for the treatment of synthesis gas to increase content of hydrogen and/or carbon monoxide in the synthesis gas comprising the step of contacting the synthesis gas with a catalyst comprising oxides of manganese and zirconium, which metals are present in the catalyst in a molar ratio Mn/Zr of between 0.05 to 5.00 and wherein the oxides of manganese and zirconium constitute [[of]] at least 50% by weight of the catalyst in its reduced form.
2. (Currently amended) ~~A process as claimed in The~~ process of claim 1, wherein the catalyst further comprises a metallic component selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, gold, palladium, ~~and~~ platinum, ~~and/or metal oxides selected~~ oxides of transition metals from Group 3 to 8 of the Periodic Table, and the lanthanides.
3. (Currently amended) ~~A process as claimed in The~~ process of claim 2, wherein the metallic component is copper.
4. (Currently amended) ~~A process as claimed in The~~ process of claim 2, wherein the ~~metal~~ oxides of transition metals are selected from the group consisting of oxides

of yttrium, titanium, vanadium, niobium, chromium,  
iron, cerium, lanthanides and mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A process as claimed in~~ The process of claim 1, wherein the catalyst is in the form of a thin layer supported on a geometrical body placed in at least part of a passageway through which the synthesis gas is transported.
6. (Currently amended) ~~A process as claimed in~~ The process of claim 1, wherein the catalyst is in the form of a thin layer supported on at least part of an inner wall of a passageway through which the synthesis gas is transported.
7. (Currently amended) ~~A process as claimed in~~ The process of claim 1, wherein the catalyst is in the form of one of pellets, extrudates, tablets, monoliths and geometrical bodies.
8. (Currently amended) ~~A process as claimed in~~ The process of claim 1, wherein the synthesis gas is an effluent stream of a reaction selected from the group consisting of catalytic steam reforming of hydrocarbons, autothermal steam reforming of hydrocarbons, secondary steam reforming of hydrocarbons, and gasification of hydrocarbons, gasification of coal, and [[or]] fuel-processing for the production of energy.